

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 EUR-12 /094 W

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R 010940Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1412

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T FREETOWN 1458

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KN, KS, SL

SUBJECT: SOUTH KOREAN SPECIAL MISSION TO AFRICA

REF: STATE 131759

1. SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA, YOUNG CHOO KIM, ACTING AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT PARK, WAS IN FREETOWN FROM JUNE 24 TO JUNE 27. HE MET WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS, VICE-PRESIDENT KOROMA, AND SEVERAL CABINET MEMBERS.

2. AT PRIVATE DINNER WITH AMBASSADOR SAMUELS IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL, KIM EXPLAINED PURPOSE OF VISIT AS BEING TO TEST EXTENT TO WHICH GOSL COMMITTED AGAINST ROK IN UN. IN LAST YEAR'S UNGA GOSL HAD VOTED AGAINST ROK EACH TIME, A SWITCH FROM PREVIOUS YEARS. ALTHOUGH KIM HAD COME CURIOUS RATHER THAN HOPEFUL, ULTIMATE GOAL WAS GOSL ABSTENTION ON KOREAN ISSUES AT UNGA.

3. VISIT CONCLUDED WITH BETTER RESULTS THAN EXPECTED, BUT WITHOUT CLEAR GOSL COMMITMENT. KIM DWELT ON "NONALIGNMENT," SAME THEME AS HAD BEEN USEFUL IN GETTING PRESIDENT STEVENS TO RECEIVE CREDENTIALS OF ROK AMBASSADOR LEE. KIM ASKED ONLY THAT GOSL

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INTERPRET NONALIGNMENT TO EXCLUDE SUPPORT FOR EITHER

SIDE ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUE SUCH AS KOREAN ONE. HIS
PLEASE WAS FOR GOSL ABSTENTION.

4. STEVENS WAXED HEAVILY ON GOSL'S NOT TAKING SIDES
ON INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS FAR FROM SL SHORES. VICE-
PRESIDENT KOROMA WAS MORE EQUIVOCAL, STATING THAT TRUE
NEUTRALITY WAS IMPOSSIBLE. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS,
HOWEVER, OMITTED KOROMA'S EQUIVOCATIONS AND QUOTED HIM
AS CALLING FOR NEUTRALITY ON ISSUE. KIM LEFT FEELING
VISIT HAD BEEN USEFUL AND GOAL WITHIN REACH.

5. ROK AMBASSADOR LEE REPORTS THAT LAST WEEK STEVENS
INSTRUCTED MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO FORBID LOCAL
NEWSPAPERS FROM PRINTING POLITICAL ADS PLACED BY
FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THIS WAS OBVIOUS SLAP AT DPRK
WHOSE PROMULGATION OF KIM IL SUNG HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD
AND FREQUENT. IT DID NOT PRECLUDE ADVERTISING OF
ROK TRADE MISSION CURRENTLY IN TOWN.

6. KIM HAS ALREADY BEEN TO GHANA AND WILL VISIT
ETHIOPIA, MALAWI, AND BOTSWANA IN COMING WEEKS.

7. COMMENT: WITH UNGA THREE MONTHS AWAY NO GOSL POSITION
COULD POSSIBLY BE FORMULATED. KIM VISIT, HOWEVER,
WAS USEFUL IN KEEPING MOMENTUM IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE
SLIDE TOWARD INTERNATIONAL MODERATION BY GOSL. THIS
IS HOPEFUL SIGN THAT WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE
FURTHER.
SAMUELS

SECRET

NNN

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